

REMARKS

Claim 78 has been amended to correct the claim dependency. No new matter has been added. After entry of the present amendment, claims 55-90 will be pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and § 372 of one of the following groups:

- Group I: Claims 55-58, 63-74, 75 (in part), 77 (in part), 78 (in part), and 79-82, drawn to a method for identifying a compound that modulates animalia tRNA, involving a detecting step with a cleavage step;
- Group II: Claims 59-62, 75 (in part), 76, 77 (in part), and 78 (in part), drawn to a method for identifying a compound that modulates animalia tRNA, with a detecting step involving a reporter gene; and
- Group III: Claims 83-90, drawn to a method for treating cancer with the compounds identified by the method of Group I.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement and assert that a single search for a method for identifying a compound that modulates animalia tRNA splicing endonuclease should identify any relevant art pertaining to both Group 1 and Group 2 and would not pose a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, in accordance with § 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group I and Group II be examined together in the present application. Attorneys for Applicants retain the right to petition from the Restriction Requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I, drawn to a method for identifying a compound that modulates animalia tRNA, involving a detecting step with a cleavage step.

The Examiner has also required species elections under 35 U.S.C. § 121. In particular, the Examiner has required that Applicant elect a single species from each of the following:

- A. A compound within the scope of the invention that increases or decreases tRNA splicing activity.
- B. A single sample for analysis.
- C. A single substrate.
- D. A single fluorescence detection scheme.
- E. A single tRNA splicing endonuclease.

In response, Applicant hereby elects the following:

- A. A compound that decreases tRNA splicing endonuclease activity.
- B. A purified form of tRNA splicing endonuclease.
- C. A nucleic acid that comprises a tRNA intron within a mature domain of a precursor tRNA.
- D. Donor-acceptor probes and an increase in fluorescence emission.
- E. Animalia tRNA splicing endonuclease.

Applicant believes that claims 55, 56, 69, 71, 73, 78, 79, and 82 read on the elected species.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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